

The CRPNS review

SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN PSYCHIATRIC NURSING

NEW RPN SCOPE OF PRACTICE GUIDELINE

We are excited to announce the publication of our Scope of Practice Guideline for Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs). The practice of psychiatric nursing in Saskatchewan is regulated under The Psychiatric Nurses Act, which grants the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Saskatchewan (CRPNS) the authority to define the scope of practice for RPNs. This new guideline, [available on the CRPNS website](#), provides the necessary framework for psychiatric nursing practice, guiding both current and future RPNs in their professional journey. It also informs employers, other regulated professionals, and the public about the role and responsibilities of RPNs within the healthcare system.



ADAPTING TO EVOLVING HEALTHCARE NEEDS & ENHANCING PATIENT CARE:

The CRPNS scope of practice guideline is not just a formal document — it is a foundational tool that helps ensure RPNs are equipped with the right competencies to meet the diverse and complex needs of the populations they serve. As the healthcare system adapts to new challenges, so too must the roles of RPNs. This guideline provides an overarching framework that supports the RPN's ability to grow within their profession while staying responsive to the dynamic needs of the patient population and healthcare environments. By grounding psychiatric nursing scope of practice in solid principles of **education**, **authorization**, **competence**, and **setting**, RPNs are empowered to make meaningful contributions to the well-being of individuals and communities across Saskatchewan.

EDUCATION	IS IT ENTRY LEVEL?	IS IT BEYOND ENTRY LEVEL?	DO I NEED CONTINUING EDUCATION?	DO I NEED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT?
AUTHORIZATION	BY LAW?	BY THE CRPNS?	BY MY EMPLOYER?	BY THE CLIENT?
COMPETENT	CAN I PERFORM IT SAFELY?	CAN I MANAGE THE POTENTIAL OUTCOMES?	DO I HAVE THE EXPERIENCE?	DO I HAVE THE EXPERTISE?
SETTING	IS THIS THE MOST APPROPRIATE PRACTICE SETTING?	CAN OUTCOMES BE MANAGED WITHIN THE PRACTICE SETTING?	DO I HAVE ACCESS TO THE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT?	DO I HAVE ACCESS TO THE REQUIRED RESOURCES?

APRIL
16,22

Privacy & Confidentiality of Personal Health Information - free CNPS webinar
[click here for more info](#)

MAY
7

CRPNS Council Meeting
08300hrs
CRPNS AGM
1300hrs

MAY
9

Step Up for Mental Health Run/Walk Registration Opens! -The run is this September, aiming to raise funds for mental health programs in SK!
[click here for more info](#)

MAY
12-18

Nursing week! - CNA is offering learning opportunities throughout the week, including a webinar on The Role of Nurses in Indigenous Health Care
[click here for more info](#)

MAY
22,28

Legal Considerations when Working with Clients with Substance Use Disorders - free CNPS webinar
[click here for more info](#)

upcoming events

PRACTICE CORNER



Ask the Regulator!

CLP WORKSHOPS - PART ONE RECAP!

As we wrap up the first three sessions of our series of CLP workshops, there have been some great takeaways and ideas brought forward. The level of engagement from everyone was fantastic, and it's clear that CRPNS registrants are invested in their learning and professional development. Below are the top five tips from the first part of the CLP workshop, which covered self-assessment, goal-setting, and selecting learning activities:

1. Reflect on your 'why'

-what is driving you to learn about this specific topic you chose?

2. Be honest about where you are

-are there areas within your current practice that could benefit from added attention, improved confidence, enhanced understanding, skill or judgment?

3. Focus in on your goals

-what is it exactly you are wanting to accomplish?
-how will this help deepen or advance your knowledge and psychiatric nursing practice based on your practice setting?

4. Ask yourself if your learning goal(s) tie directly back to your practice setting and the standards of practice

-how will this help you tomorrow?
-don't be afraid to pause and pivot your goals if your practice setting changes

5. Be selective with learning activities

-is the source credible, professional, and evidence based, or is it targeted at a general audience or for broad entertainment purposes?

QUESTION: I've observed a rise in the number of practice guidelines being distributed - how does CRPNS decide which guidelines/documents to publish?

ANSWER: The decision to release new practice guidelines is based on a careful, multi-faceted approach. CRPNS monitors trends in literature and practices from other regulators across Canada to stay aligned with national and provincial standards, as well as emerging issues in the profession. Additionally, trends in practice needs within our jurisdiction—such as patterns in practice support calls, complaint data, and feedback from registrants, employers, and other key partners—are regularly assessed to identify pressing needs, gaps, and concerns within the psychiatric nursing community.

To ensure guidelines remain relevant, CRPNS is committed to reviewing and updating them every five years to reflect current best practices. Up next on our list is a thorough review of the Independent Practice Guideline, as well as creation of a new document that focuses on our role in reconciliation through a guideline focused on anti-racism, cultural safety and humility - stay tuned!

In early April, we'll be releasing our new Social Media Guideline, recently approved by Council in March! You can find all of our practice guidelines on the CRPNS website under the '[Practice Resources](#)' page.



Happy Nursing Week (May 12-18)!! As registered psychiatric nurses, you are dedicated healthcare professionals who provide holistic mental health care with hard work and compassion. These qualities shine through in our registrants, and we are truly grateful for all you do. Take time this week to celebrate yourself and each other!

RPN PRACTICE *spotlight*

Bridging Care and Crisis: How RPNs Are Working with RCMP

Mental Health Interventions. Did you know that RPNs work with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police? In 2021 they created an initiative within their Operational Communication Centre to include RPNs to work with RCMP officers in real time during mental health interventions with the public. If an RCMP officer responds to a call where it is believed the subject is experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis, the officer can enlist the expertise of the RPN ([RCMP, 2021](#)).

The RPN will speak with the officer directly prior to speaking to the individual in crisis. Together - the individual, the RPN, and police - will determine the appropriate care pathway. This collaboration not only demonstrates the success of RPNs working alongside law enforcement but also highlights the potential for further collaborative efforts in addressing mental health needs across various sectors.





CRPNS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

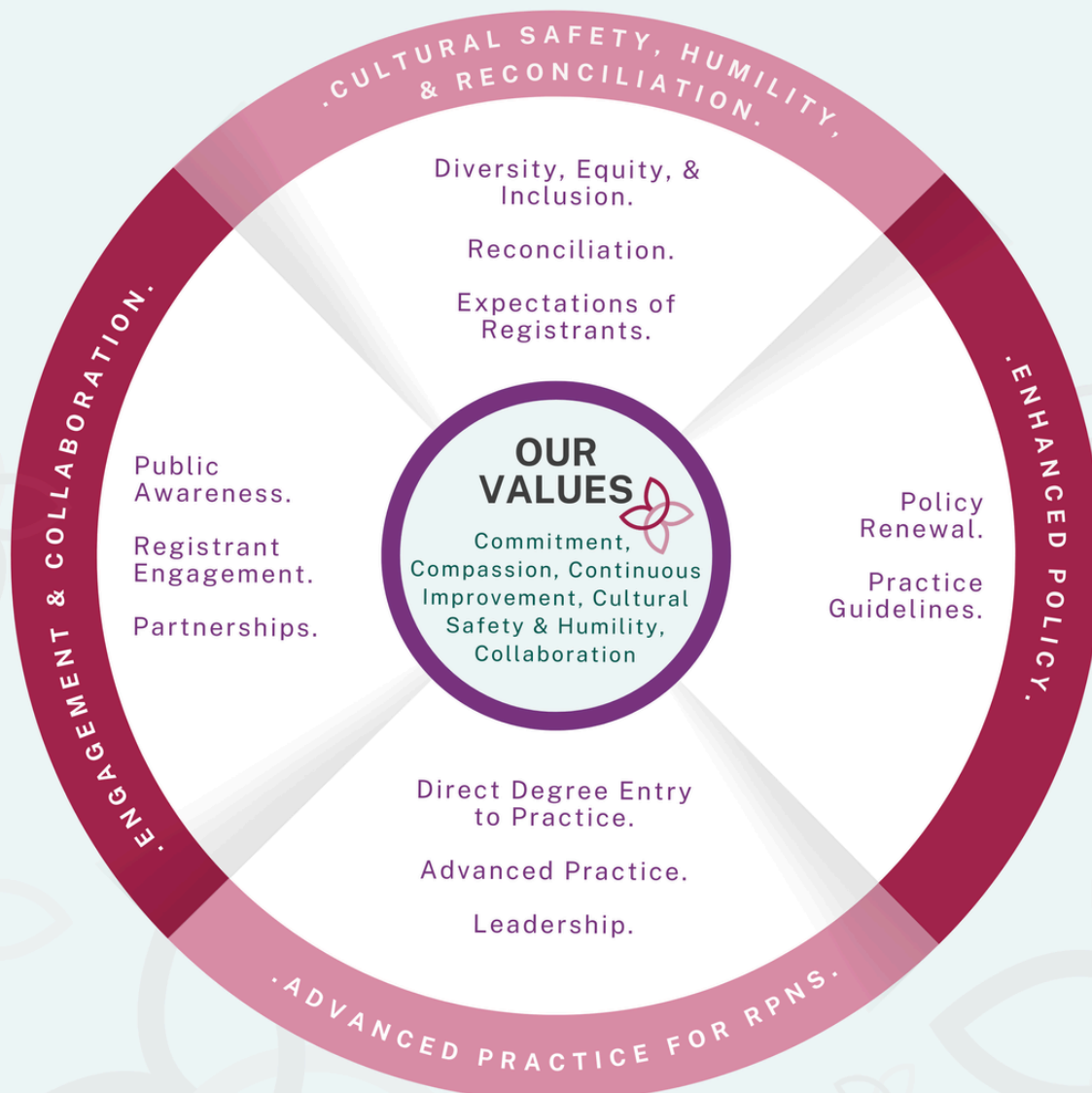
During our annual planning day last year, Council took the lead in identifying CRPNS's strategic priorities for 2025-2027, with CRPNS staff providing support and assistance. A strategic priority plan outlines the key areas an organization will focus on to achieve its long-term goals and fulfill its mission. It helps guide decision-making and ensures resources are directed toward the most impactful initiatives. In addition to sound regulatory practices to ensure Registered Psychiatric Nurses provide safe, competent care to the public, CRPNS will focus on four key strategic priorities, highlighted around the perimeter of the circle below, to better serve and protect the public interest. Our core values, placed at the center, ground the vision of our strategic plan, further guiding our actions and decisions. Below, you'll find a summary of these priorities for the upcoming years:

2025-2027

CRPNS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

 **OUR VISION:** Excellence in psychiatric nursing for all.

 **OUR MISSION:** CRPNS protects the public through effective regulation of Psychiatric Nurses, ensuring safe standards of practice & ethical competent care.



Insights & Info

- **ADDITIONAL EDUCATION SEATS:** Exciting news! The new provincial budget has added 16 more psychiatric nursing education seats, bringing the total to **120** by September 2025. This increase means more opportunities for aspiring RPNs and greater access to skilled psychiatric nurses across the province, ultimately improving care for our communities.
- **CLP WORKSHOP PART 2 - COMING THIS FALL:** This session will cover implementation, evaluation, documentation, and troubleshooting. Keep an eye out for the dates, which will be announced at the end of summer.
- **UPCOMING CONFERENCES:** The [National Emergency Nurses Association \(NENA\) conference](#) (May 30-Jun 1), the [Custody and Caring conference](#) (Oct 1-3), and the [Canadian Association of Neuroscience Nurses \(CANN\) conference](#) (May 22-25) are all in Saskatoon this year!
- **CRPNS COUNCIL MEETINGS:** Did you know registrants can observe CRPNS council meetings? RSVP to attend with the subject line: "Request to Observe - Council Meeting [insert date]."
- **AGM MAY 7TH:** If you would like to observe the CRPNS AGM on May 7th at 1300hrs please RSVP by completing the following form by May 5th at 1600hrs - [RSVP HERE](#).

Study Invitation

Are you a

Clinician Providing Care to a Person Receiving Home Care Services?

If you work with individuals receiving home care services in Canada, we need your help!

Study title:

The influence of gender at the intersections of cognitive, social, and sensory vulnerability: Perspectives of home care providers.

Study purpose:

To explore how gender, sensory, and social factors influence the care of home care clients living with cognitive impairment.

Who can participate?

English-speaking Canadian clinicians, including nurses, other allied providers, physicians, and nurse practitioners, are invited to participate in this study. Your involvement is greatly appreciated.

What's involved if I participate?

You will participate in a one-time interview on Zoom, where you will provide general information such as your gender and occupation, answer questions about the different types of clients you typically see in practice, how gender, social, sensory, and cognitive vulnerabilities present together, how these factors may influence your approach to care, and how information from a new prediction tool regarding cognitive performance decline could be utilized with various home care clients.

\$25 gift card per participant



This study has been approved by the Research Ethics Board at the University of Alberta (Ethics ID: Pro00137224)

Questions?

For more information or to participate, please contact **Fernanda Dal Pizzol** toll-free at 1-877-692-5909 or email fenglerd@ualberta.ca

Correctional Registered Psychiatric Nurses

We Want to Hear from You

Do you work in a Federal Prison or Provincial Jail/Remand Center in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, or Alberta?

If so, you are eligible to participate in a virtual interview to discuss your experience, roles, and responsibilities.

Please contact Ashley Lemus at (306) 380-4119 or lemusal16@brandonu.ca or Andrea Thomson (thesis advisor) at (204) 727-9671 or thomsona@brandonu.ca to hear more details!



research opportunities!

Want to be featured in our next RPN Practice Spotlight and newsletter?

Submit your story to info@crpns.ca. We're looking for unique stories, RPN led research, diverse practice settings, and inspiring registrants to showcase!

CONTACT US

#205 – 4401 ALBERT ST.
REGINA, SK
S4S 6B6

T: 306.586.4617
E: INFO@CRPNS.CA

www.crpns.com



CRPNS
COLLEGE OF
REGISTERED PSYCHIATRIC NURSES
OF SASKATCHEWAN